

## Tims Ford Reservoir Land Planning Goals and Objectives

As previously stated, TVA's land management mission is to provide for customer-focused stewardship of TVA land and natural resources in order to:

- Establish policies and procedures for the land that is subject to the state's management that will ensure good conservation practices
- Prevent soil erosion and conduct reforestation and erosion controls
- Manage the Elk River watershed and protect the reservoir system
- Foster environmentally sustainable development in the region

This Plan focuses on TVA's mission by setting several goals.

- **TVA projects goal:** To maintain Tims Ford Dam and powerhouse for flood control, power production, and water supply.
- **Resource management goal:** To manage project land that has been deemed not suitable for development as natural habitats for the preservation and enhancement of natural resources for human appreciation and use and to protect sensitive resources.
- **Watershed management goal:** To help improve the condition of the watershed by monitoring conditions in streams and reservoirs and by partnering with local communities and others interested in watershed protection and improvement.
- **Economic development goal:** To develop a joint TVA and TDEC Land Management and Disposition Plan for the project lands above the 895-foot MSL contour line.
- **Recreational goal:** To manage TVA and TDEC lands for recreation activities.
- **Residential access goal:** To manage residential development and public land consistent with the decision in SMI.

Land planning objectives for Tims Ford Reservoir were developed by the Tims Ford Land Planning Team, using lake user and TVA staff input received during the scoping process.

**Scoping** is the issue-gathering phase of the environmental review process. The following objectives were used to allocate TVA land on Tims Ford Reservoir. They reflect the public's interest in Tims Ford Reservoir and TVA and TDEC 's desire to manage project land on Tims Ford Reservoir in the public's best interest and consistent with Public Chapter 816 .

### 1. Consider impacts on water quality as a result of the Tims Ford Project Lands allocations.

Water quality was the highest-ranking concern of respondents during the scoping process. Eighty-three percent of respondents indicated that water quality should be a high priority. This priority was taken into consideration during the allocation process. In recognition of this concern for water quality as well as the need to protect natural and sensitive

resources, the Plan allocates parcels containing 4,573 acres, to both Sensitive Resource Management and Natural Resource Conservation Zones. These zones comprise 71 percent of the plannable land on Tims Ford. This acreage is relatively consistent with previous land plans completed for mainstream reservoirs. In some cases, these lands are large parcels, and in others they are only narrow strips between backlying residential or agricultural uses. These strips provide a buffer for the reservoir from runoff and pollution associated with activities on backlying land.

**2. Provide a balanced approach for competing natural resources and residential development on Tims Ford Project Lands.**

The Plan is intended to provide a clear statement of how project land would be disposed of or managed in the future based on scientific, cultural, and economic principles and consistent with the language of Public Chapter 816 and the original congressional intent of the project. The Plan will seek to integrate land and water benefits, provide for optimum public benefit, and balance competing and sometimes conflicting resource goals. To help meet this objective, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of specialists participated in the planning process, applying expertise and varied backgrounds toward the assessment of land use capability and suitability. Public input was also important in deciding on the proper balance of resource and land allocations. The IDT carefully considered existing uses of committed or previously conveyed lands.

The range of potential land use allocation zones provides a basic structure to achieve balance among recommended uses for TVA Project Operations (6.0 percent); Sensitive Resource Management (13.7 percent); Natural Resource Conservation (57.2 percent); Industrial/Commercial (1.0 percent); Recreation (8.9 percent); Residential Access/Development (12.7 percent); and Conservation Partnership (0.5%).

**3. Recommend allocations that are compatible with obligations under the TVA Act and other federal laws and presidential executive orders (i.e., protecting sensitive resources on project land).**

In making allocations, the Land Planning Team paid particular attention to threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, and distinctive visual resources. During the public scoping process, respondents to the questionnaire indicated that we should place a high priority on protection of these resources. The Plan identifies 9 parcels containing 881 acres of land with cultural, wetlands, significant natural areas, resources, habitat protection areas, and distinctive visual resources. To protect the sensitive resources, all of these parcels of land are allocated to Sensitive Resource Management, Zone 3. These parcels may be used for other purposes, such as informal recreation opportunities and natural resource conservation activities; however, protection of the sensitive resource would be the primary management goal when considering other compatible land uses for the parcel. Each

parcel has been reviewed to ensure the recommended allocations are consistent with obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Wetlands Protection and Floodplain Management Executive Orders, and the Endangered Species Act.

**4. Ensure public access for recreational activities.**

During the scoping process, 51 percent of respondents felt more land was needed to support informal recreational areas. High priorities were placed on lodging, public land, and boat ramps for recreational use. The Plan allocates 3,691 acres (57 percent of plannable land) to Natural Resource Conservation, Zone 4, which includes informal recreation as a component and compatible use. The Plan further allocates 573 acres (8.9 percent of total acreage) to Recreation, Zone 6. Approximately 1,680 acres are included in Tims Ford State Park, 92 acres in Winchester City Park, 12.8 acres in Estill Springs, and 39 acres in Devil's Step Campground.

**5. Preserve and maintain the aesthetic/scenic beauty of the reservoir.**

The scoping results indicated that respondents felt additional land was needed for hiking trails, natural areas, public lands, shoreline conservation and observation areas. There were 335 specific comments regarding the value of protecting and enhancing aesthetic and scenic beauty on Tims Ford. Therefore, 50 parcels were allocated to sensitive resource management and natural resource conservation to ensure that sensitive resources are protected and the scenic beauty of Tims Ford Reservoir is preserved.

**6. Maintain residential access in areas that are currently available for access.**

There are two types of subdivisions on Tims Ford. 1.) TERDA developed subdivisions with existing landrights allowing water-use facilities. 2.) Subdivisions that adjoin project lands that do not have landrights. In these areas, TERDA previously permitted water-use facilities. These subdivisions together comprise 152 acres and approximately 22 miles of shoreline.

**7. Establish a wider shoreline buffer zone to enhance the riparian zone and to ensure long-term maintenance of the shoreline.**

During the public comment process numerous comments were received identifying public concerns relating to water quality and conservation of the shoreline. Many of these areas are narrow strips of public land that do not provide adequate buffer areas from the adjoining private land. Further, many commentors stated that because of the close proximity to the water's edge, they had a well-founded expectation of gaining water access. This presents unique management challenges, not only from an administrative perspective, but from a resource conservation perspective. Establishing a wider shoreline buffer area would benefit water quality, shoreline habitat, and shoreline aesthetics while reducing shoreline erosion. This can be accomplished through Shoreline Protection Partnerships with adjoining owners to ensure long-term maintenance and enhancement of the riparian zone. In return for conservation partnership easements granted by adjacent private

property owners, TVA would consider requests for limited community water-use facilities. Zone 8 (Conservation Partnership) includes 32.4 acres (0.5 percent of total acreage) and 9 miles of shoreline.

**8. Consider parcels of land where disposals and acquisitions of land might be feasible.**

Public Chapter 816 urges TDEC to dispose of all properties previously belonging to TERDA as expeditiously as practical and lawful. Past planning documents, models (i.e., slope analysis, adjacent land use, accessibility, utilities, etc.), and field investigations were performed to determine development potential. The criteria for land management and disposal is being developed jointly by TVA and TDEC.